

SITUATION REPORT NO. 17
INCIDENT NO. 2002-040
DATE: August 14, 2002 TIME: 4:30 p.m.

TO: Governor John Hoeven
State Capitol
Bismarck, N.D. 58505

1. NATURE OF DISASTER: Drought/Fires – The Governor issued a state fire emergency declaration on May 30, 2002, and a state drought emergency declaration on July 1, 2002.
2. DEATHS AND INJURIES: The State Emergency Operations Center (EOC) has received reports of two fatalities relating to rural fires, one of which occurred on May 2 and the other on May 26. To date, a total of 11 injuries have been reported during response to various fires throughout the state.
3. DAMAGES: On August 10, a fire very near the city limits of Bowman threatened several structures. The Bowman Fire Department extinguished the quarter-acre fire. Another fire in close proximity to the first burned one acre before the fire department contained the blaze.

Ten miles north and three miles west of Cleveland on August 11, lightning caused a fire that destroyed 32 bales. The Cleveland Fire Department responded but reported heavy rain extinguished the blaze. One mile west and a mile north of Gackle, lightning also started a single bale fire which, was extinguished by the Gackle Fire Department.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Flash Situation Report for Logan County indicated the drought, beginning in August of 2001, affected 257,000 acres of cropland and 400 farms.

The North Dakota Agricultural Statistics Service reported that from August 5-11 condition of pastures and rangeland statewide was rated 30 percent very poor, 29 percent poor, 27 percent fair, 13 percent good, and one percent excellent.

The percent of soil moisture in four categories is as follows:

| | <u>Very Short</u> | <u>Short</u> | <u>Adequate</u> | <u>Surplus</u> |
|-----------|-------------------|--------------|-----------------|----------------|
| TOPSOIL | | | | |
| This Week | 15 | 37 | 47 | 1 |
| Last Week | 18 | 37 | 43 | 2 |
| SUBSOIL | | | | |
| This Week | 17 | 34 | 47 | 2 |
| Last Week | 17 | 34 | 46 | 3 |

4. RESOURCES:

LOCAL: No change from previous reports.

STATE: No change from previous reports.

FEDERAL: No change from previous reports.

5. VOLUNTEER ACTIONS: No change from previous reports.

6. MAJOR ACTIONS: The North Dakota Wildlife Federation (NDWF) is coordinating a state wide effort, entitled "Operation Hayride", to deliver feed to cattle producers in 17 counties including Adams, Barnes, Bowman, Burleigh, Dickey, Emmons, Grant, Hettinger, Kidder, LaMoure, Logan, McIntosh, Morton, Ransom, Sioux, Slope, and Stutsman. Sportsmen, anglers, trappers, and members of outdoor organizations throughout the state will be asked to volunteer the use of hay hauling equipment as well as donate tax deductible monetary contributions. Cattle operators from affected counties are being asked to register their hay hauling needs with the N.D. Agriculture Department (NDDA) before September 1. A database will be compiled and NDWF personnel will place volunteers and commercial hay haulers in contact with cattle producers.

Pembina County officials and producers have donated hay to Grant County for utilization by impacted farmers and ranchers. Plans call for continuing the program.

Division of Emergency Management (NDDEM) and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) officials met with local emergency managers from Sioux and Grant Counties and the Standing Rock Tribe as well as local agriculture producers and fire district representatives in Porcupine, ND on Monday, August 12. The purpose of the meeting was to outline eligibility requirements regarding federal reimbursement for fire fighting costs incurred during the Kraft Fire in Sioux and Grant Counties, which occurred June 29.

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: No change from previous reports.

8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: No change from previous reports.

9. OTHER: Appropriate state, local, tribal, federal and private entity emergency operations plans (EOPs) and procedures have been implemented.

Due to the urgent need for hay in drought-stricken parts of the state, the North Dakota (NDSU) Extension Service has established a website where hay producers including those with CRP acres and prospective buyers can directly contact one another. The site is located at <http://www.ag.ndsu.nodak.edu/feedlist/>. The general NDSU Extension Service website has links to hay and feed listings in neighboring states at <http://www.ag.ndsu.nodak.edu>. Producers and buyers may also contact their local extension agent to be placed on the appropriate list.

The N.D. Rural Fire Mitigation Guide and the N.D. Rangeland Fire Danger Index are posted on the N.D. Division of Emergency Management web site at: <http://www.state.nd.us/dem/>.

Situation Reports published by N.D. Division of Emergency Management are posted on the Division's Internet home page. The address is: <http://www.state.nd.us/dem>.

Douglas C. Friez, State Director